Please amend the present application as follows:

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("——"), as is applicable:

1.   (Previously presented) A method for sharing contact information, comprising:

storing a user's contact information in a publicly-accessible database that is accessed over a network;

receiving identification from the user of a person that the user authorizes to access the user's contact information;

receiving a request from the authorized person to access the user's contact information; and

transmitting the user's contact information to a computing device of the authorized person from the database via the network in response to the request.

2.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein storing the user's contact information comprises storing the user's contact information on a network server accessible through the network that is used as a central repository of contacts information.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

4.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving identification comprises receiving the person's email address.

5.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein enabling the person to access the user's contact information comprises adding the person's identity to an approved list associated with the user's contact information.

6.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an indication from the user as to what pieces of contact information to make accessible to the authorized person.

7.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising revoking a person's access to the user's contact information in response to the user's request to revoke the access.

8-13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Previously presented) A method for sharing contact information, comprising:

storing a user's contact information in a web server accessible via the Internet;

receiving from the user an identification of one or more persons that the user authorizes to access the user's contact information;

receiving identification of what pieces of contact information to share with each authorized person;

receiving a request from a person to view the user's contact information;

verifying authorization of the person to view the user's contact information and the level of access for which the person is approved; and

transmitting to the person only the pieces of contact information that the person is authorized to view.

15. (Previously presented) A system for sharing contact information, comprising:

means for storing a user's contact information in a location that is publicly-accessible over a network;

means for receiving an identification of one or more persons that a user authorizes to access the user's contact information;

means for receiving requests from persons to access the user's contact information; and

means for transmitting the user's contact information to computing devices of authorized persons from the database in response to the requests.

16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 15, further comprising means for receiving an indication from the user as to what pieces of contact information to make accessible to the persons.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising means for revoking a person's access to the user's contact information.

18-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein receiving an indication as to what pieces of contact information to make accessible comprises receiving an indication as to which of multiple groups of information to make accessible to the authorized person.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein receiving an indication as to which of multiple groups of information to make accessible comprises receiving an indication as to which of a personal information group and a business information group to make accessible to the authorized person.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein receiving an indication as to what pieces of contact information to make accessible comprises receiving manual selection of each piece of information to make accessible to the authorized person.

24. (Previously presented) A method, comprising:

presenting a user with a list of links, each link identifying a person for which contact information is stored within a virtual address book;

receiving selection of one of the links; and

retrieving contact information from a remote location via a network, the contact information being the contact information for a person identified by the selected link.

25. (Previously presented) A virtual address book application stored on a computer-readable medium, the application comprising:

logic configured to present a user with a list of links, each link identifying a person for which contact information is stored within a virtual address book;

logic configured to receive selection of one of the links; and

logic configured to retrieve contact information from a remote location via a network, the contact information being the contact information for a person identified by the selected link.